

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-14 are currently pending in the present application.

Applicants appreciate the brief telephone interviews of 10 and 11 September 2003 that clarified the advisory action for Applicant's attorney. On 10 September 2003, Applicants' attorney asked the Examiner to clarify the claim status on the cover sheet for the advisory action and briefly discuss the advisory action comments related to the Hoeg et al. and Kato et al. references. The 10 September 2003 telephone call concluded with scheduling a second call for 11 September 2003 to allow the Examiner to obtain the case folder before answering any questions. On 11 September 2003, the Examiner confirmed entry of Applicants' amendments after final, briefly discussed Example 71 of Hoeg et al. and listened to Applicants' attorney's proposed amendment to ensure that the coated article of Claim 1 has a coating formed from the composition of that claim as opposed to a substrate formed from that composition with a different coating such as the optical recording media of Kato et al. In addition, Applicants' attorney noted that he would submit a terminal disclaimer to overcome the obviousness rejection. The Examiner concluded the call with a reminder that the amendments were coming in after final.

Applicants amend Claim 1 to clarify that "coated article" refers to an article coated with the composition recited in Claim 1. Support for the amendment comes from the Specification at page 43, lines 17-22, page 48, lines 1-22 and Example 4 on page 52. Language similar to that found in the cited sections may also be found in the previous filings. See, e.g., Provisional Application 60/139,074 at page 9, lines 21-27; Provisional Application 60/193,313 at page 43, lines 16-22; Provisional Application 60/146,008 at claim 6 on page 64; and Application Serial No. 09/575,062 at page 43, lines 5-10, page 47, line 16 through page 48, line 8, and Example 4 (pages 51-52). As such, the amendment does not constitute new matter.

The Advisory Action comments upon Example 71 of Hoag et al. Example 71 has a nominal weight ratio of butadiene to styrene of 60:40. The actual weight ratio, based upon 24 grams of styrene (12.0 grams for the first styrene block plus 12.0 grams for the second styrene block) and 41.7 grams of butadiene is 63.47:36.53. This greatly

exceeds the requirement in Applicants' Claim 1 for a weight ratio of hydrogenated diene block to hydrogenated vinyl aromatic block of 40:60 or less.

Hoag et al. do provide several examples of styrene-butadiene-styrene block copolymers that have a pre-hydrogenation weight ratio of butadiene to styrene of 40:60 or less in Runs 72 through 87. Even though Runs 72-87 may meet the weight ratio requirement of Applicants' Claim 1, none of Runs 72-87 meet the molecular weight requirement of Applicants' Claim 1. Applicants invite the Examiner to consider the following Table that presents the pre-hydrogenation molecular weights calculated according to the formula that Hoag et al. present in column 6, lines 20-24 and the data from Hoag et al. Table II.

Run No.	Total Monomer Weight (grams)	n-Butyl-lithium (milliMoles)	Molecular Weight
72	52.6	0.18	292,222
73	52.5	0.17	308,824
74	52.7	0.17	310,000
75	50.2	0.22	228,181
76	50.0	0.22	227,273
77	53.1	0.33	160,909
78	54.0	0.33	163,636
79	55.3	0.33	167,576
80	54.3	0.33	164,545
81	55.3	0.20	276,500
82	50.5	0.17	297,059
83	50.0	0.17	294,118
84	54.5	0.21	259,524
85	53.9	0.21	256,667
86	54.6	0.23	237,391
87	55.1	0.23	239,565

Based upon data presented in the above Table, Hoag et al. do not teach or suggest preparation of vinyl aromatic-conjugated diene-vinyl aromatic block copolymers that have a pre-hydrogenation molecular weight of 30,000 to 150,000. As hydrogenation adds to a polymer's molecular weight, none of the molecular weights presented in the above table would drop into the 30,000 to 150,000 molecular weight required by Applicants in their Claim 1.

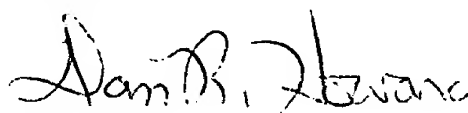
Kato et al. do, as noted by the Examiner in the Advisory Action, teach coated optical disks. The coatings are recording media, mainly inorganic materials such as tellurium or its oxides or an amorphous alloy compound of the rare earth-transition metals. They are not, as required by amended Claim 1, prepared from the composition stated in amended Claim 1.

Applicants file concurrently herewith a terminal disclaimer over three Hahnfeld patents: USP 6,376,621; USP 6,426,390; and USP 6,350,820. The double patenting rejection over a fourth Hahnfeld patent, USP 6,451,924, was withdrawn in the Final Rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment presented herein effectively removes any basis for rejecting any of the pending claims over Kato et al. Applicants also contend that Hoeg et al. neither teach nor suggest the polymers embodied in any of the pending claims and, as such, fail to support a 35 USC 103(a) rejection of such claims. Finally, Applicants offer of the terminal disclaimer overcomes any basis for a double patenting rejection. As there are no remaining bases for rejection, and as the amendment places Claim 1 and all pending claims that depend from it in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment and allowance of all claims at an early date.

As requested by the Examiner in the Advisory Action, Applicants enclose copies of all initialed Information Disclosure Statements.

Respectfully submitted,



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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.(currently amended)(third amendment) An article which is a film, sheet, extruded profile, fiber, ~~coated article~~, rotational molded article, or blow molded article produced from, or an article coated with, a composition comprising a hydrogenated block copolymer, wherein the hydrogenated block copolymer comprises at least two distinct blocks of hydrogenated vinyl aromatic polymer, and at least one block of hydrogenated conjugated diene polymer, wherein the copolymer is further characterized by:

a) a weight ratio of hydrogenated conjugated diene polymer block to hydrogenated vinyl aromatic polymer block of 40:60 or less;

b) a total weight average molecular weight (M_w) of from 30,000 to 150,000, wherein each hydrogenated vinyl aromatic polymer block (A) has a M_{w_a} of from 6,000 to 60,000 and each hydrogenated conjugated diene polymer block (B) has a M_{w_b} of from 3,000 to 30,000; and

c) a hydrogenation level such that each hydrogenated vinyl aromatic polymer block has a hydrogenation level of greater than 90 percent and each hydrogenated conjugated diene polymer block has a hydrogenation level of greater than 95 percent.

2.(original) The article of Claim 1 wherein the hydrogenated vinyl aromatic polymer block is selected from the group consisting of hydrogenated polystyrene, a hydrogenated alpha-methylstyrene polymer, a hydrogenated vinyltoluene, a hydrogenated copolymer of styrene and alpha-methylstyrene, and a hydrogenated copolymer of styrene and vinyl toluene; and the hydrogenated conjugated diene polymer block is selected from the group consisting of hydrogenated polybutadiene, hydrogenated polyisoprene, and a hydrogenated copolymer of butadiene and isoprene.

3. (original) The article of Claim 1 wherein the composition additionally comprises at least one additional polymer.

4. (original) The article of Claim 3 wherein the other polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydrogenated vinyl aromatic homopolymers, other hydrogenated vinyl aromatic/conjugated diene block copolymers, thermoplastic

polyurethanes, polycarbonates (PC), polyamides, polyethers, poly/vinyl chloride polymers, poly/vinylidene chloride polymers, polyesters, polymers that contain lactic acid residuals, partially or non-hydrogenated vinyl aromatic/conjugated diene block polymers, a styrenic polymer, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) copolymers, styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers (SAN), ABS/PC polymers, polyethylene terephthalate, epoxy resins, ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymers, ethylene acrylic acid copolymers, polyolefin carbon monoxide interpolymers, chlorinated polyethylene, cyclic olefin copolymers (COC's), and olefin homopolymers and copolymers.

5. (original) The article of Claim 4 wherein the additional polymer is selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin, ethylene/styrene interpolymers, a partially or non-hydrogenated vinyl aromatic/conjugated diene block copolymer, a styrenic polymer, hydrogenated polystyrene, an other hydrogenated vinyl aromatic/conjugated diene block copolymer and a cyclic olefin (co) polymer derived from monomers selected from the following group: substituted and unsubstituted norbornenes, dicyclopentadienes, dihydrodicyclopentadienes, trimers of cyclopentadiene, tetracyclododecenes, hexacycloheptadecenes, ethylidenyl norbornenes and vinylnorbornenes.

6. (original) The article of Claim 1, wherein the hydrogenated block copolymer is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 99.5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition.

7. (original) The article of Claim 1 wherein the composition additionally comprises a compatibilizer.

8. cancelled

9. (previously amended) The article of Claim 1 which is a capacitor film, a membrane switch, blister packaging, a UV protection film, biaxially oriented film, uniaxially oriented film, weatherable film or sheet, label, release liner, window film for envelope or box, medical packaging film, a tray, a liquid crystal panel, a cap layer for polyolefin sheet, a key pad, a flat panel display, optical display panel, a window blind, window blind wand, tubing, pipe, construction siding, roofing product, window trim, glazing, ceiling panel, solar collector, flat panel display,

thermoformed container, wind screen, bug deflector, sun roof, basketball backboard, cap layer for polyolefin sheet, electronic optical fiber, fiber glass, fiber reinforcement, filter media, textile, nonwoven article, yarn, a bottle, a toy, an injection blow molded article, container, light globe, storage tank, furniture, whirlpool tub, boat, camper top, advertising display sign, rack, or mannequin.

10. (previously amended) A composition comprising:

I) at least one hydrogenated block copolymer which comprises at least two distinct blocks of hydrogenated vinyl aromatic polymer, and at least one block of hydrogenated conjugated diene polymer, wherein the copolymer is further characterized by:

a) a weight ratio of hydrogenated conjugated diene polymer block to hydrogenated vinyl aromatic polymer block of 40:60 or less;

b) a total weight average molecular weight Mw_t of from 30,000 to 150,000, wherein each hydrogenated vinyl aromatic polymer block (A) has a Mw_a of from 6,000 to 60,000 and each hydrogenated conjugated diene polymer block (B) has a Mw_b of from 3,000 to 30,000; and

c) a hydrogenation level such that each hydrogenated vinyl aromatic polymer block has a hydrogenation level of greater than 90 percent and each hydrogenated conjugated diene polymer block has a hydrogenation level of greater than 95 percent, and

II) at least one additional polymer.

11. (original) The composition of Claim 10 wherein the additional polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydrogenated vinyl aromatic homopolymers, other hydrogenated vinyl aromatic/conjugated diene block copolymers, thermoplastic polyurethanes, polycarbonates (PC), polyamides, polyethers, poly/vinyl chloride polymers, poly/vinylidene chloride polymers, polyesters, polymers that contain lactic acid residuals, partially or non-hydrogenated vinyl aromatic/conjugated diene block copolymers, styrenic polymers, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) copolymers, styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers (SAN), ABS/PC polymers, polyethylene

terephthalate, epoxy resins, ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymers, ethylene acrylic acid copolymers, polyolefin carbon monoxide interpolymers, chlorinated polyethylene, cyclic olefin copolymers (COC's), and olefin homopolymers and copolymers.

12. (original) The composition of Claim 11 wherein the additional polymer is selected from the group consisting of a polyolefin, ethylene/styrene interpolymer, a partially or non-hydrogenated vinyl aromatic/conjugated diene block copolymer, a styrenic polymer, hydrogenated polystyrene, an other hydrogenated vinyl aromatic/conjugated diene block copolymer and a cyclic olefin (co) polymer derived from monomers selected from the following group: substituted and unsubstituted norbornenes, dicyclopentadienes, dihydrodicyclopentadienes, trimers of cyclopentadiene, tetracyclododecenes, hexacycloheptadecenes, ethylidenyl norbornenes and vinylnorbornenes.

13. (original) The composition of Claim 10, wherein the hydrogenated block copolymer is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 99.5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition.

14. (original) The composition of Claim 10 wherein the composition additionally comprises a compatibilizer.

Claims 15-21 (cancelled).